

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The City Of Augusta

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION of “American Red Cross Month 2004”

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, our Homeland Security Advisory System that monitors the risk of terrorist attacks in our nation has been raised to “high” on four separate occasions. While we are fortunate that no terrorist acts have occurred during those periods, it is critical that all Americans and residents in Richmond County remain vigilant, prepared and ready to deter terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross of Augusta has devoted itself to that goal—educating individuals, families, schools and businesses in the Augusta community about what they can do at each threat level of the federal alert system to strengthen our community’s response in the event of future attacks and other disasters. The Augusta Red Cross has an unparalleled record of helping the residents of Richmond County and beyond, prevent, prepare for, and respond to life-threatening emergencies by delivering relief services to victims of disaster; offering health and safety training such as first aid, CPR and aquatic lifesaving, to more than 11,000 people last year; providing emergency communication services to military families; participating in international humanitarian projects that save lives; and

WHEREAS, in the last two years, the face of disaster has changed dramatically. From the 2001 terrorist attacks and the elevated threat of future acts, to armed conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq and the increasing severity of natural disasters, the Red Cross understands more than most – America, and the residents in Richmond County need to be better prepared; and

WHEREAS, being prepared ranges from knowing what to do in a natural or man-made disaster to making sure lifesaving blood is available when a family member needs surgery. The Red Cross urges all Americans to take five simple emergency preparedness steps – make a plan outlining what to do if a disaster strikes, create a disaster supplies kit, have at least one member of your household trained in first aid and CPR, volunteer to help the local community prepare for disasters and give blood regularly to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply for the victims of medical emergencies. Communities must be prepared with a five-to-seven day supply of blood; and

WHEREAS, by joining the American Red Cross as a volunteer, course participant or instructor, contributor, you can help make Richmond County and our nation safer. Last year, the Red Cross responded to over 124 disasters in the Augusta area, from home fires to flooding. During Red Cross relief operations, volunteers assess damages, drive emergency response vehicles to distribute food and other supplies, provide shelter for families who have been evacuated from their homes and necessities to people in need. These invaluable services are provided free of charge, paid for by generous contributions from the American people; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross also serves military families by delivering emergency messages between soldiers and their families back home. With U.S. troops deployed overseas in Iraq and Kuwait defending freedom, this support has been especially important. In addition, Red Cross workers at home and overseas provide critical aid to the victims of disease, famine, war and natural disasters. The Red Cross organized an effort to vaccinate nearly 43 million African children against the childhood killer measles last year and continued a program to aid families in war-torn Afghanistan with clean water, tents, school supplies and other necessities.

To commemorate these valuable humanitarian services, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim March 2004 as Red Cross Month in Richmond County, Georgia. I urge all residents of Richmond County to work through the American Red Cross of Augusta to help prepare their families and this community for emergencies. Please continue to give your time and financial contributions to support this worthy organization’s mission to prevent and relieve suffering and to save lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand four.

Mayor

